(c) Topical microbicides that effectively block interactions between CCR5+immature Langerhans calls (LC) residing within genital epithelia and R5 human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) may decrease sexual transmission of HIV.

Art Clinics

571. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that many Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) clinics asked an infertile couple to sign a consent form which contains a statement "we also understand that ART procedure carries with it a sexually transmitted disease of AIDS";

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take against such ART clinic which use donor's ova/sperm/embryo without verifying his/her suffering from killer disease; and

(c) the action Government propose to enact a law prohibiting such a practice?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) The Government do not have any information and Assisted Reproductive Technology (ART) Clinics ask an infertile couple to sign consent forms which contains a statement "we also understand that ART procedure carries with it sexually transmitted disease or AIDS".

(b) and (c) Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) has prepared Guidelines for Accreditation, Supervision and Regulation of ART Clinics in India, after detailed discussions and debate by expert groups of the ICMR and the National Academy of Medical Sciences and then by practitioners of ART and the general public. Guidelines have been examined by the

Directorate General of Health Services and is under active consideration of the Ministry.

Quality Health Care for the poor

572. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA:
SHRI HARISH RAWAT:
SHRI R.K. ANAND:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the wealthy and affluent middle class only afford quality private health care and health care offers ample opportunities for investment; and

(b) if so, the action Government propose to take to offer quality health care to masses?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Health is a State subject, however, achieving an acceptable standard of good health amongst the general population of the country continues to be the main objective of the Government's health policy. Under the National Common Minimum Programme the Governemnt plans to increase the public expenditure on health sector from 0.9% of GDP to 2-3% of GDP over the next 5 years with focus on primary health care. Health care infrastructure in many states is being strengthened with external assistance to improve the health care services for the people in the rural areas. A number of National health Programmes are also being implemented for control of major diseases like Malaria, TB, Blindness, Leprosy, and AIDS, To improve public health services and delivery of quality care, a National Rural Health Mission (NRHM) has been envisaged, which will cover the following activities to provide quality health care to rural poor: (i) to provide quality health and family welfare services for the entire country specially to rural poor by increasing their accessibility to both public and private health institutions arranged through accreditation of private nursing homes. (ii) providing the services of Accredited Social Health Activists (ASHA) at village level in a phased manner and also providing essential drug kit at sub-centre. (iii) Strengthening of rural poor health infrastructure. (iv) Upgrading 2000 Community Health Centres to the level of Indian Public Health Standards (IPHS). (v) Strengthening of existing Sub-Centres by providing united funds.